

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-15, 42-48 and 50-56 are pending in the application.

Claims 4, 16-41, 49 and 57-74 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-3, 10-15, 34-44 and 51-56 have been rejected.

Claims 4-9 and 45-50 were indicated as allowable.

Reconsideration of the Claims is respectfully requested.

1. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 103

Claims 1, 14, 42 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaffner (U.S. Patent No. 6,104,908 in view of Paul (U.S. Patent No. 6,381,745).

Claims 2-3, 10-13, 43-44 and 51-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Schaffner (U.S. Patent No. 6,104,908 in view of Paul (U.S. Patent No. 6,381,745) and further in view of Ohishi (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,551).

Claims 15 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaffner (U.S. Patent No. 6,104,908 in view of Paul (U.S. Patent No. 6,381,745) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,995,709, to Tsuge ("Tsuge").

Claims 34-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,708,961, to Hylton ("Hylton"), in view of U.S. Published App. No. 2002/0104099 to Novak ("Novak").

Claims 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hylton and Novak, in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,068,677, to Arai ("Arai").

Claims 41 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hylton and Novak, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,901,153, to Leone ("Leone").

Claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter drawn from allowable claim 4 which was cancelled. Intermediate claims 2 and 3 were not included, because applicant submits that the subject matter of claim 4 is patentably distinct from the prior art, without the inclusion of claims 2 and 3 which stand alone. For these reasons, applicant requests that claims 1-3 and 5-15 be passed to allowance.

Claim 42 has been amended as allowable claim 49. For this reason, claims 42-48 and 50-56 are believed to be patentably distinct from the prior art.

2. Conclusion

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-3, 5-15, 42-48 and 50-56 in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests allowance of such Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile if the Examiner believes that such a communication would advance the prosecution of the present invention.

No fees are believed to be due. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Garlick Harrison & Markison Deposit Account No. 50-2126 (VIXS006).

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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